

Message Text

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SUBJ: GERMAN COMMENT ON SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE

1. DEC. 29 GERMAN PRESS CARRIES REPORTS OF OFFICIAL
FRG COMMENT ON SECRETARY'S DEC. 27 PRESS CONFERENCE.
2. ACCORDING TO FRANKFURTER ALLGEMEINE ZEITUNG STORY,
FRG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN GRUENEWALD TOOK A MUCH MORE
POSITIVE APPROACH THAN SECRETARY TO QUESTION OF US-
EUROPEAN RELATIONS. HE SAID THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT DOES
NOT CONSIDER 1973 A DISAPPOINTING YEAR RE US-EUROPEAN
COOPERATION, AND HOPES THAT THE TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE
CAN BE CONTINUED IN 1974 AND BROUGHT TO THE DESIRED
CONCLUSION.
3. FAZ ALSO CARRIES REPORT ON STATEMENT ON SAME
SUBJECT BY FOREIGN OFFICE SPOKESMAN, VON PACHELDEL. HE
IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT ALTHOUGH THE EXPECTATIONS
LODGED IN PART IN THE YEAR OF EUROPE COULD NOT BE
FULFILLED, THERE WAS NOT QUESTION OF DISAPPOINTMENT.
THE DEVELOPING EUROPEAN /UNION FACED MANY PROBLEMS, IT
WAS TRUE, BUT IT WAS NOT DIRECTED AGAINST EITHER OLD
FRIENDS OR OTHER COUNTRIES. IT HAD SOUGHT INTENSIVE
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DISCUSSIONS WITH THE US, AND HAD ACHIEVED A FIRST

DIALOGUE OF THE NINE WITH THE US AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. IN ADDITION, THE POLITICAL DIRECTORS' DISCUSSIONS WITH STOESSEL HAD GONE WELL, AND IN LIGHT OF THIS IT SEEMED UNIMAGINABLE THAT THE WORK OF THE EUROBEAN COMMUNITY COULD TAKE ON AN ANTI-US TONE. PACHELDEL STRESSED THAT THE FRG HAD ALWAYS EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR CLOSER OARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S.,AND NOTED THAT THE DIALOGUE ON A JOINT ATLANTIC DECLARATION WAS IN AN ADVANCED STAGE. THIS DIALOGUE HAD BEEN DESCRIBED AS DESIRABLE IN THE EUROPEAN IDENTITY PAPER APPROVED AT THE COPENHAGEN SUMMIT MEETING. ON THE POINT THAT US INITIATIVES HAD NOT BEEN ANSWERED

CONCRETELY, PACHELBEL SAID THAT THE FRG HAD ALWAYS WELCOMED US SUGGESTIONS. PACHELBEL REJECTED THE IDEA THAT THE SECRETARY'S CRITICAL REMARKS WERE RELATED TO US OFFSET DEMANDS. IT WAS NOT SO MUCH A OUESTION OF US-GERMAN OFFSET; US WISHES RE MULTILATERAL BURDEN-SHARING IN NATO WERE JUST AS IMPORTANT. ON THIS OUESTION, FOREIGN MINISTER SCHEEL AT THE NATO MINISTERIAL MEETING HAD EXPRESSED GERMAN READINESS, ON CONDITION THAT OTHER EUROPEAN STATES HAD TO MAKE AN APPROPRIATE CONTRIBUTION.
HILLENBRAND

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